



THE SPRING VOTE.

Mighty Increase of the Socialist Army at our Polls.

TWO SOCIALIST ALDERMEN IN WISCONSIN.

CHEERS FROM WEST AND EAST

The Socialists of Rhode Island Double Last Year's Vote—Municipal Contests in Detroit, Mich., Cleveland and Dayton, O., Chicago and East St. Louis, Ill., Davenport, Iowa, and Towns in New Jersey—Everywhere a Marked Accretion is Recorded to the Socialist Forces.

This spring the party has tried conclusions with the capitalist foes in the State election of Rhode Island, and in municipal elections in several other States. The result everywhere is most encouraging.

The returns from

RHODE ISLAND

are as follows:

PROVIDENCE, April 10.—The Socialist Labor party of this State more than tripled last Tuesday its vote of last November. Last November Matchett polled 558 votes; this year one gubernatorial candidate, Franklin S. Burton, polled 1,442. The following is the vote by towns:

Barrington	1
Bristol	5
Burrillville	46
Cen. Falls	105
Charleston	7
Cranston	14
Cumberland	34
E. Greenwich	6
E. Prov.	31
Exeter	2
Foster	4
Gloucester	26
Hopkinton	1
Jamestown	4
Johnston	80
Lincoln	26
L. Compton	1
Middleton	50
Newport	5
N. Kingston	14
N. Providence	6
N. Smithfield	223
Pawtucket	533
Portsmouth	1
Providence	4
Richmond	3
S. Smithfield	13
S. Kingston	2
Tiverton	26
Warren	32
Warwick	3
W. Greenwich	211
Woonsocket	37
Total	1,442

IN ILLINOIS

municipal Socialist tickets were set up at Chicago and East St. Louis. In both cases the growth is perceptible. In Chicago the Comrades had to contend against one of those insane stampedes that are the unerring signs of popular dissatisfaction, and that needs but proper guidance to crystallize into effective revolution. In East St. Louis the effect was felt of the healthy work now done across the river by the Comrades in St. Louis, who, themselves, having been tricked out of their place on the official ballot by the capitalist politicians, as was tried in Newark, N. J., were virtually knocked out of the fight despite the fact that they had collected over 1,000 signatures for their nomination lists. The below dispatches give details:

CHICAGO, April 12.—The crazy municipal turnover of last Tuesday did not carry the Socialists of this city off their feet; on the contrary, they came out decidedly stronger than they did last November; last Tuesday the Mayoralty candidate, John Glembek, polled 1,226 votes; that is to say, a larger vote than our ticket got last year over the whole State.

The vote of our city candidates was as follows:

Pepin, for City Clerk, 1,344.

Kaibitz, for City Treasurer (Incomplete), 1,423.

Weaver, for City Attorney (Incomplete), 1,577.

Besides this the ward candidates all

received a larger vote than was polled for Socialism last year.

EAST ST. LOUIS, April 7.—Our vote here yesterday was 30 for Mayor, and increased down the ticket as the offices became less important, until it reached 82 for constable. Last year Matchett, for President, polled 15 votes here. Our vote may be taken as the pure stuff. The A. P. A. tried to bulldoze us, and they threatened to wipe us out this year, but, instead, they have been wiped out. They tried hard to do us up, but we got a good foothold anyhow.

From IOWA,

Where a Socialist ticket was set up in Davenport, this cheering news comes:

DAVENPORT, April 10.—The Socialist poll in this city has increased since last fall nearly 300 per cent. For Matchett 110 votes were cast in November. At last Tuesday's election our municipal ticket received a vote that ranged from 270 to over 300. This is the very largest vote we ever cast here. There is still one ward to hear from. Our vote is about 4 per cent. of the total poll. This entitles the party to a place on the official ticket as a regularly recognized party; it saves us the necessity of collecting signatures for our ticket. The returns justify the expectation of a mighty vote next November. To the Socialists of the East we Western Socialists send a hearty greeting from the "backwoods of the West."

Likewise from

MICHIGAN

Good news is sent to the Comrades. The party set up its municipal ticket in Detroit. It thus stepped up boldly against Potato Patch Pingree's fake reform movement. As will appear from the below telegram, our vote went up and our agitation clarified the political atmosphere:

DETROIT, April 7.—In the special election for Mayor in this city our candidate, M. Meyer, received 377 votes, against 208 cast for Kreighoff in 1895 for same office. Pingree feels dumped.

Not less gladsome, and even more so, are the returns from:

OHIO.

CLEVELAND, O., April 8.—Cleveland Comrades have made a good start upward. Last fall 434 votes were cast in this county. Yesterday 908 votes for Larsen for Mayor were polled in this city alone. The school ticket runs far over a thousand. While the Socialists are greatly pleased at their fine increase, the Populists, who fought a "non-partisan silver campaign," are greatly depressed. Although they had the most popular man in their party up, and were supported by prominent Democrats and Republicans and a daily paper, they only polled 3,109 votes. They expected at least 5,000, and double that amount was hoped for. It means the utter disintegration of Populism in this town. Cleveland Socialists are full of fight and all right.

CINCINNATI, April 13.—We had here a fine municipal vote:

For Mayor—E. Jacobs, 250.
For Police Judge—Pandorf, 273.
For Police Clerk—Henry J. Pool, 303.
For Treasurer—Emil Schulz, 263.
For Justice of the Peace—John Moll, 264.

DAYTON, O.—The Socialist Labor party went this year into the municipal fight, and came out three times as strong as it did last November. We polled last Tuesday 278 votes; last November we had 86.

Finally, from the municipal fields of

NEW JERSEY

the following Socialist cheers are sent out:

PATERSON, April 14.—We have held our own despite the land slide.

ELIZABETH, April 14.—John P. Weigel polls 116 votes; this is an increase.

NEWARK, April 14.—Our returns for the elections held yesterday are still very incomplete. From partial returns it is certain that we have made progress. Best of all is the news from

WISCONSIN.

SHEBOYGAN, April 12.—We elected our Alderman, Van Akeren, in the 5th Ward by an overwhelming majority. He polled 178 votes, against 89 for the Republican, and 72 for the Democratic candidate.

The rest of the ticket is as follows:

For Mayor—John G. Riedel, 211.
For City Clerk—George Schnor, 175.
For Treasurer—Gustav Bairow, 160.
For Comptroller—Charles Bricker, 151.

For Assessor—Paul Reuther, 184.

WAUSAU, Wis., April 13.—Julius Boblenz, a member of the Socialist Labor party, was elected to-day to the Board of Aldermen. There is no Section of the S. L. P. in this city. But a few Socialist workingmen nominated Boblenz, and he received more votes than either of his two adversaries.

Comrade Harry Carless' Tour in the State.

April
" 16.....East Syracuse.
" 17.....Auburn.
" 18.....Rochester.
" 19.....Lockport.
" 20, 21.....Buffalo.
" 22.....Tonawanda.
" 23.....Hornellville.
" 24, 25.....Elmira.
" 26, 27, 28.....Binghamton.
" 29.....Oneonta.

For an Italian Paper.

All Comrades and sympathizers who realize the importance of upholding a Socialist paper in the Italian language in this country are requested to send contributions and subscriptions to Comrade C. F. Garzone, 14 Varick place, New York City. Send at least nickel. "Il Proletario" needs assistance. To discontinue its valuable work would be a serious setback to the movement among the Italian wage earners.

THE ITALIAN ELECTION.

Increase of Votes and of Seats in the Parliament.

In the Last Parliament the Socialists held Nine Seats, in the Next One they Will Hold Fifteen, With Possibly a Few More, of Whom Two are Probable—Two Years ago The Socialist Poll was 57,000 Strong this Year it is Over 98,000—The Italian Situation—Rising Spirit of Socialism.

The result of last month's general election in Italy for members of Parliament is now substantially in. It affords the following comparisons.

At the last general election, held in 1895, the poll of the Italian Socialist Labor party was 57,000; last month it was 98,449—a net increase of over 41,000, notwithstanding the arbitrary and wholesale disfranchisements of workingmen voters.

In the last Parliament, 9 Socialist delegates held seats. In the next Parliament there will be at least 15—a gain of 6 seats, in the teeth of Premier Rudini's pledge to the Italian bourgeoisie that not one single Socialist deputy would be returned. The below list gives the names of the fifteen elected comrades, together with the places:

Gregorio Agnelli (Mirandola).

Nicola Badaloni (Badia Polesine).

Agostino Berenini (Borgo S. Donato).

Alfredo Bertesi (Carpini).

Leonida Bissolati (Pescarolo).

Andrea Costa (Budrio).

Enrico De Marinis (Salerno).

Enrico Ferri (Gonzaga).

Girolamo Gatti (Ostiglia).

Ottavio Morgari (Turin II).

Quirino Nofri (Turin IV).

Giuseppe Pescetti (Florence III).

Camille Prampolini (Reggio Emilia).

Adelmo Siebel (Guastalla).

Filippo Turati (Milan V).

But the elections are not yet completed; in several places, supplementary elections are to be held; in seven of these the Socialist candidates are entitled to re-enter the lists. It is confidently expected that two of them—Hector Cicotti, of the 5th District of Milan, and Guido Podrecca, of Albany Laziale—will triumph; of the remaining five, several have a fighting chance. Whether any of the seven wins or not their aggregate poll will raise the Socialist vote of Italy to about 100,000. Considering the savage manner in which workingmen voters were stricken off registry, the present militant Socialist male population of Italy may be estimated at 300,000 at least—an ominously large figure for an organized revolutionary party, considering that the total voting population of the kingdom is not quite 2,000,000. No wonder the Italian alliance of Crown and Capital feels uneasy when it ponders that, already, out of every 6 male Italians of voting age 1 is a Socialist.

The Italian working class merits the plaudits of the class-conscious American proletariat.

"CONTENTMENT."

It is to be Created on the Ostrich Plan of Hiding his Head.

DE SOTO, Kan., April 12.—In a certain portion of the region known as "the wild and woolly west" there is an organization called "Federation of Women's Clubs." At a recent session of a local club, after the regular programme was run off, the State organizer, who was present, addressed the ladies assembled somewhat as follows:

"There is a great deal of unrest in the land. I see it cropping out in the several local clubs I visit. Many fear and predict that we are on the eve of starting events—even revolutionary in character. But this will all wear away as business revives. The trouble with most of these people is that they were not properly brought up. If the proper spirit of CONTENTMENT were duly inculcated in the masses during childhood, we should hear less about revolution, etc. In the meantime the most important and patriotic service that these women's clubs can render is to cultivate a feeling of CONTENTMENT. Don't agitate or countenance subjects that lean that way. Now, one of the nice things you can occupy your attention with is getting up a series of social entertainments. For instance, you could cut a lot of nice pictures out of your magazines and paste them on cardboard, hang them around on the walls, and, as your guests come in, have them guess what the pictures refer to; or, let each woman represent a book by fastening on her person pictures or symbols suggestive of the title of the book chosen, which the others are to guess," etc., etc. Half a dozen other and similar devices for the intellectual, moral and physical development of the modern woman were suggested, and all to the end that "a feeling of contentment be engendered, and the country thus saved again, six months after the patriots "saved" it, who last November voted for "sound-money and protection."

The conclusion of this advisory address was that all the members of the club should attend and take part in the summer State Chautauqua meeting, "for the church and the clubs," she assured them, "we're going hand in hand in the work of charity and patriotism."

Truly, "whom the gods would destroy they first make blind."

Now, what is the line of work or recreation of these Chautauqua assemblies? Mythology, Sanscrit, Pall, Confucius, Zoroaster, anything, everything to turn attention from the living vital issues of the NOW.

T. E. MILLER.

THE BURDEN IRON CO.

Remarkable Testimony Furnished by its Discharged Employees.

A Workingman Inventor Robbed of his Patent—The Invention Becomes a Means of Displacing Labor and Throwing the other Workers into Poverty—Ruthless Reductions of Wages—Employees Taxed for Boss' Presents to his Vanderbilian Bride—A Dastardly Parson.

GLOVERSVILLE, N. Y., April 9.—Upon my arrival in West Troy the following facts, tending to produce a healthy soil for the planting of the seed of Socialism, were related to me by several discharged employees of the Burden Iron Company. This company has one of, if not the largest plants in the country for making horse shoes. It is located in that part of Troy known as the "Iron Works." The founder of the firm, Henry Burden, commenced early in the fifties to manufacture horse shoes with machines in a small factory at Woodside. These machines, with a few modifications and improvements, tending to perfect the shoe, were in use at the present plant until three years ago. They had been gradually superseded by the "James A. Burden Patent Horse Shoe Machine." Although this machine bears the Burden name, it was invented by one Turner, a foreman of machinists employed by the firm, and who has since been discharged. The new machine is now in general use, with the usual result. A conservative estimate places the number of displaced workers at not less than 700. The wages of those who have been kept at work have been reduced considerably. The firm were pitiless in the discharge of its old hands. Considerations of long service or humanity were absolutely lacking. Men with large families, and who had been in the employ of the firm 15 to 20 years, were quietly told their services were no longer required, and were thus ruthlessly driven to swell the army of unemployed. Any of the present employees who object to having their last drop of blood squeezed out of them are quickly told their services are no longer needed.

Much of the grit and resistance was taken out of these men some years ago when, after a strike of eleven months, they were compelled to submit to the bosses' terms. The present machine makes a successful strike an impossibility. The men dare not even protest. Their dependence is abject.

Prior to the introduction of this new machine the firm was paying what is called fair wages, and on the whole the workers felt quite satisfied, as the following will show.

When James A. Burden returned from Europe some time ago, where he had been luxuriating for a few months, the workmen were invited, through a benevolent society, composed of employees, to take part in a demonstration at his Woodside home in honor of his safe return. The juice of the cattle responded to the invitation. Mr. Burden made a nice speech to them, in the course of which he told them how much he loved his workingmen. He did not say he loved them because he could milk them well. On, no! On the contrary, he told them to beware of Socialism. He undoubtedly thought that if they listened to the Socialists they might become aware of the fact that Mr. Burden, like all capitalists, looks upon the wage workers as so much cattle to be milked, fleeced and skinned.

Not long ago this man's son, James A., Jr., married a Miss Sloane, of the Vanderbilt tribe of leeches. A supper was given to the employees in honor of the possibility that he would beget some more Burden brats for them to feed, clothe and house. The supper fell somewhat flat as the marriage had been preceded by two wage reductions, simply as an extra token of the capitalist's love for labor. The men felt that they were taxed to enable Burden to make presents to

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS

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One year.....	\$1.00
Six months.....	.50
Three months.....	.30

As far as possible, rejected communications will be returned if so desired and stamps are enclosed.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post office, on April 6th, 1891.



SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1888 (Presidential).....	2,068
In 1890.....	13,331
In 1892 (Presidential).....	21,127
In 1893.....	33,133
In 1896 (Presidential).....	36,564

It is better and a deal juster, seeing that we are all brothers, united by the bonds of blood and of nature that property should be shared equally by all. If any one wishes to appropriate everything to himself, he is the sole owner and to exclude his brothers of a third or even a fourth of the wealth, such a man is no longer a brother; he is an inhuman tyrant, a cruel barbarian, even a savage beast whose jaws are always stretched to devour the food that belongs to all.

St. Gregory of Nyssa.

LET'S UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

From Lohn, Tex., we have received the following communication, that deserves some attention.

To the Editor of THE PEOPLE.—The following is a resolution which was adopted at Lohn, Tex., by the Lohn People's Party Club:

"RESOLVED, That we, the Populist Club of Lohn, Tex., send friendly greetings to the Socialist Labor party club recently organized at San Antonio, Tex."

"The preceding is sent to you for publication in THE PEOPLE."

It is just because we appreciate the good intentions that breathe through this resolution, and through the act of forwarding it here for publication, that we deem the occasion fit for a few plain words.

The political arena is not a ball room. In a ball room one single couple would feel lonesome. It is a feature of the ball room that many couples whirl on its floor simultaneously, and, what is more, in perfect accord. In the ball room one common harmonious impulse animates the dancers; collisions are not looked for but carefully avoided; the enjoyment of each is the certain measure of the enjoyment of all.

It is just the reverse with the political arena, and, when that is not the case, it is a certain sign of political stagnation and corruption. In epochs of healthy political life, a political party has a mission to fulfill; something that is in force is to be thrown out or upheld; something that is not in force is to be established or resisted. At such periods each political party—be it enlisted in behalf of or against the things that it says as clearly as is possible: "None other but myself is entitled to the field; I am in the field to overthrow all others; the simple fact of my existence is a denial of the right to live of any other." The political party that can contemplate with equanimity the existence of an adversary, and can exchange kisses with it, is not a party built on principle, but a party built for political log-rolling. All political parties of historic importance aim at the upholding of an existing principle or at the extermination of such, and, with such extermination, at the establishment of a new.

The days we are living in are the days of strong political pulsations. Two principles are contending for supremacy—the one, now in force, is the principle of the private ownership of the things man needs to work with; it is the principle that to the robbers belong the spoils; it is, in short, the principle of wage slavery that condemns the majority to arduous toil and privation, while a criminal few enjoy luxury in idleness. This principle is the principle of CAPITAL. The other principle is that he who works may live, and he who does not shall die the death; it is the principle, consequently, that demands the public ownership of the means of production, without which robbery is inevitable; it is the principle of SOCIALISM. The two cannot live together. One or the other must bite the dust.

In our own country, as in all other so-called civilized countries, there is only one party that stands squarely and uncompromisingly upon the principle of Socialism, and that demands the unconditional surrender of CAPITAL. All other parties either pointedly uphold capitalism or wander from the question. There can be no love lost between the Socialist Labor party and any other. At great critical epochs, he who is not right is wrong; there can be no "in between."

It is one of the hardest things to-day to get two men who call themselves Populists to agree upon a definition of the term or the aim of the thing. Recognizing this, we wish to believe that the Lohn, Tex., Populist Club has discovered how mixed up the crowd is from

the people for which it wishes to fight is straight out Socialism, and that the camp it should be in is the camp of the S. L. P. We wish, accordingly, to think that the greetings it sends are but a forerunner of its application for enrollment on the list of our party's organization. So interpreting its greetings, we receive and give them publication.

We repeat, these are not the piping days of peace, nor is the issue that is up one that allows of dalliance. It concerns the lives of the men and women, together with their children, who toil; it concerns the existence of the nation; it concerns the fate of civilization.

ALL FUN AND NO TROUBLE.

The capitalist class is getting things fixed in such a way that it may illustrate Socialist principles more and more clearly. That certainly is a commendable spirit.

It first established its stock corporations whereby the Socialists could without difficulty prove that the capitalist did no work. Before a concern becomes a stock corporation the fact that the boss is an idler and parasite does not strike the eye with sufficient force. Some false appearances are preserved that give a color to the false claim that the boss does do some work in his factory. The stock corporation tears away all false appearances on this head. Even a blind man can realize that a stockholder in a dozen different concerns spread over as many different lines, and who does not even know exactly where these concerns are situated, is nothing but a parasite living on the wealth he absorbs without working for.

There still remained a claim set up by professional economists in behalf of the capitalist. He had responsibilities, we were told. The capitalist courts now leave their professional confrères in the cold, and speak the capitalists free of even responsibility.

The Courts of Illinois have just decided that, where a passenger is injured on a train his only redress is against the employees, not the company.

Free from work, free from responsibility, our capitalists stand now upon the industrial stage of the country and plump and plain ask the people:

"Kindly tell us what earthly use there is of us?"

So say we, too, and propose to give the answer in short order, equally plump and plain.

POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

It is not for the purpose of crushing still more than he now is that we propose to pick up ex-Senator Peffer and expose him once more to public view by quoting from his paper the Topeka, Kan., "Advocate." Our purpose is to turn Peffer to the most practical and valuable use that can be made of him, to wit, to illustrate through him the utter unreliability of the spokesmen for the middle class as instruments for the improvement of the condition of the working class.

No paper in the country ever was or continues to be more malignant towards Populism than the New York "Sun." In all the fierceness of our attacks against Populism in general, and Peffer in particular, our arguments were and continue such as properly proceed from a camp that is conscious of the justice of its cause, and consequently, never betray, as the upper capitalist adversaries of Populism do, that viciousness and malignity that proceed from and are the unerring mark of conscious rascality towards former accomplices.

No line on Populism ever appeared or appears now in the "Sun" but bears this tell-tale earmark in a more marked way than similar arguments do in other upper capitalist papers. This notwithstanding, the Topeka "Advocate" now publishes an advertisement of the "Sun."

But this is not all; this may even be apologized for on the ground of "business." In addition to the advertisement, the "Advocate" contains this editorial put on the "Sun":

"Charles A. Dana's 'Sun' has a widespread reputation for RELIABLE NEWS. A line of ten words, printed in every edition and every copy of the paper, has for years and years proclaimed this characteristic feature of the great journal: 'IF YOU SEE IT IN THE SUN, IT'S SO.' In another column of the 'Advocate' the reader will find the 'Sun's' card."

These few lines tell a tale of the thickness of volumes. The representatives of the middle class are for sale, the upper capitalist class may purchase them any time it wants. The seemingly revolutionary language held by these middle class spokesmen has for its sole object to bluff the upper capitalists and frighten them into a purchase; and, to this end, and this end alone, the middle class leaders are profuse in expressions of love for the workers and promises of relief.

If the symbol of the upper capitalist class is the bloody fist of a ruffian, the symbol of the middle class politician is a dirty dish-clout.

From neither can the proletariat expect any thing but a tanning.

The Spokane, Wash., "Freemans Labor Journal" should promptly remove the motto that heads its first page: "For the masses against the classes."

more dangerously misleading than it would seem at first blush.

Of course, the people who work are the large majority, and those who loaf are a frail minority; a majority may well be designated as the masses, but the word "classes" can by no means be applicable to a minority. If one chooses to designate the overwhelming working majority with the term "the Masses," then the minority must be designated with the term "the Few." The "Masses" are no less a class than the "Few." The "Masses" are the proletarian or working class; the "Few" are the bourgeoisie or capitalist class.

To speak of the one as the "classes" and the other as the "masses" is to use language that either ignores or denies the sociologic fact that modern society consists of three classes:

1. The capitalist—the robber and idle class;

2. The middle class—a class that would like to be idle and to rob as much as the upper class, but is kept from its ideal because it has not enough capital, and is being rapidly expropriated; and

3. The proletariat or working class—the class that does all the mental and manual work needed for production, that produces all the wealth, but is robbed of its products because it has been robbed of the needed capital to produce with.

The social question involves the class struggle of these three classes; the solution of the social question lies in the victory of the working class, because its program alone can wipe out class rule and exploitation.

He who uses the term "masses against classes," ten to one, is ignorant of the existence of the modern class struggle; and as a result of that, he will, ten to one, fall into serious tactical errors.

The social question is a scientific question; accuracy of terminology is essential to success.

The Cleveland, O., "Citizen," being recently attacked by a Colorado paper as a Socialist paper, and, "therefore," as "an enemy of unionism," answers with this well aimed blow:

"Socialists who are wage-workers are, as a rule, identified with labor organizations; generally they are the most active workers in the ranks, and their loyalty to the labor cause cannot be honorably questioned. If a poll could be taken of all the voters in this country, it would be found that the largest per cent. of union men in any party is in the Socialist Labor party. No one acquainted with the labor movement in the United States can safely dispute that claim, and, therefore, Socialists should not be maligned and discredited by opponents who ought to be willing to be fair and decent."

"Furthermore, Socialists hold that the labor unions are class-conscious organizations, and that they are formed for the purpose of securing to the laboring-class a greater portion of its product. But the unions are handicapped by the power of government controlled, by the capitalist class, aside from the fact that the workers are propertyless and confronted by concentrated, conscious and autocratic capitalism upon the economic fields. The disadvantage under which labor is placed is enormous, and for this reason the Socialist says the class-conscious economic movement must be accompanied by a class-conscious political movement that will seize the various branches of government and conduct them in the interest of the working people.

"For this laudable ambition Socialists are often denounced by the reactionary and gomperzite conservatives as wild theorists, dreamers, etc. But if they were not ignoramuses they would know that in all history the radicals and progressives were likewise condemned and reviled, and still great, growing principles could not be crushed out. Therefore, the Socialists, understanding the historical aspect of society, allied with the greatest altruistic movement that has ever been given to the world, hark back into the teeth of their detractors the charge that they can see no good in trade unionism, and declare further that they will neither ask nor give quarter to capitalistic and political scabism even though hell freezes over."

The "Shoe & Leather Reporter," organ of the bosses in the shoe industry, is greatly assisting us to show that the bosses and the "pure and simple" labor leaders are hand in glove, both working to the common end of keeping down the rank and file of the workers.

The Lynn Lasters' Union was having its election for secretary. Comrade Carter ran on an outspoken Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance platform. In its issue of last March 25th, the "Shoe & Leather Reporter" took sides against Carter. It said:

"It will be for the welfare of the city of Lynn if this official (Comrade Carter) is succeeded by a new man March 30, on which date it is expected that the Lasters' Union will elect a secretary for another year. No walking delegate ever in Lynn has created the same amount of trouble as Carter. He is very extreme in his opinions and is a pronounced Socialist."

The Lynn Lasters' Union did not take the bosses' hint, and on the 30th of March elected Comrade Carter. In the sorrow of its heart, and feeling the New Trade Unionist slap in its face, the "Shoe & Leather Reporter" speaks of Carter's victory in this wise:

"Secretary Carter, of the Lasters' Union, was re-elected to that position the past week, after a very close contest, defeating his nearest competitor by only thirteen votes. Had the two forces against Carter combined he would have been defeated."

There are still more weepful items in the ink-stand of the "Shoe & Leather Reporter."

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

A TIP TO THIRDS.

Standing Armies and Their Economic Relation to the Working Class.

As a Greenbacker and subsequent Populist, I could in those days find no language sufficiently strong to express my detestation of standing armies in general, not only from an altruistic but also from an economic standpoint. Of late, however, while I still despise the spirit that prompts the organization and maintenance of standing armies, also the demoralizing effect of the war-like spirit they engender, I have come to the conclusion that, from an economic standpoint, the burdens of the proletarian class are not increased by the standing armies of the world, especially in countries whose industrial system is under the influence and control of the capitalist class. My change of opinion arises from the fact that, as a member of the organizations above mentioned, I viewed the industrial question through middle class spectacles, while now, as a Socialist, I view it through the spectacles of the proletarian class interests.

As a member of these middle class organizations, I judged all questions from the effect they had or might have on this particular class. To me, at that time, this class constituted the bulwark of society; indeed, it constituted society itself. The universe centered in it, and revolved around it. To me it then seemed that whatever affected the interest of this class either favorably or unfavorably, affected the whole human family favorably or unfavorably—excepting the plutocratic class, these having by their greed separated themselves from humanity, at least so it seemed to me, at that time.

As a result of this system of thought, I believed that whatever increased the taxes of the people—and, by the "people," I meant the middle class—without giving in return a just equivalent, was a detriment and injury to the whole people. As standing armies in times of peace did this very thing, I therefore argued they must of necessity be an injury to the whole people. In fact every dollar expended for such purpose seemed to me pure robbery, no other term so fittingly described my feeling.

I contended that, were the standing armies of the world to disband, the men, who were being drilled and taught, at the expense of the tax-payers, to kill and slaughter each other, would then, under the regime of peace, become useful members of society, in fact, would be transferred from the armies of destruction into the armies of construction, and as a result peace and plenty would reign supreme. It did not occur to me then that already there were millions of men and women outside of these armies of destruction who were anxious and willing to enlist into the army of construction on most any terms that would guarantee to them mere subsistence, and that sign boards were then sticking up all over the land, and all over the world, heralding the fact to all seekers after useful employment that no more recruits were needed. I never thought, were the armies of destruction to disband, but what there would be ample opportunity for the men composing these armies, to join the armies of construction, until I became a Socialist, and then it was sometime before I came to see that from an economic standpoint the armies of the world, no matter what their effect upon the middle class, did not tend to increase the burdens of the proletarian class.

A question by a boy, a short time since, as to the economic effect of the standing army of Germany upon the laboring people of that country, first caused me to view these armies from a different standpoint. The following are the conclusions I came to in regard to the economic relation these armies bear to the laboring class of all countries under the capitalist system:

Labor, being a merchandise under the capitalist or wage system, is subject to the same law of supply and demand, as are all other merchandise under this system. Under the operation of this law, whenever the supply of any merchandise exceeds the demand for it, the price of that particular merchandise tends to fall. As a result of the introduction of labor-saving machinery, the merchandise labor power has been for years, is at present, and must continue to be in the future—so long as the wage system lasts—a drag on the market. Hence its selling price is and has been tending to the bare cost of producing it, namely: a sum that will purchase for the laborer a mere subsistence and at the same time enable him to bring into existence and rear another wage slave to take his place, when he has become unfit to meet the exacting demands of his employer, the capitalist.

The millions of idle men and women to-day—in this and all other capitalist countries—prove that there are not enough jobs to go around and furnish conclusive evidence that, were the standing armies of the world to disband to-morrow, these men would be simply so many new competitors for the situations of those who now have employment.

It is a fact that the labor question proper in this country entered upon its present acute stage with the disbanding of the Federal armies in 1866. All civilized countries have reached that stage in their development where the dominant or capitalist class are unable—no matter how philanthropic their intentions—to furnish employment to the whole proletarian class outside the standing armies, to say nothing about those belonging to it, were these to suddenly thrown on the labor market of the world.

The standing armies and navies belong to the same great class as do the police, the executives, the legal fraternity, and the household domestics, namely, to the servant class, all of which live as so many parasites of their patron, the capitalist class, which in turn fleches all from labor.

This servant class is to the capitalist class a necessary evil that they would gladly dispense with. If they could. Were it possible for them to rid themselves of the burdens of these lackeys, the capitalist, not the laboring class, would derive the benefit. This servant class—as so many parasites upon the capitalist class—are co-consumers of the surplus wealth that the capitalists have already fleeced from labor, and thus aid in keeping down the too rapid accumulation of labor's products, and

severity of the "crisis plethorique," or modern industrial panics, and thereby tend to give to those who have work more constant employment. Were it possible for the capitalist class to substitute machinery for this servant class, as a whole, they would still continue to exploit from productive labor all the wealth produced by it over and above a bare subsistence, and if possible—on account of the increased competition engendered by two or three million men thus being thrown onto the labor market of the world—the exploitation would be more severe than at present.

While the police of all capitalist countries are but so many watch-dogs to keep the capitalists from robbing each other, and the proletarian class from compelling the capitalist class to disgorge their stolen treasure, the standing armies of the world are but enlarged editions of this breed of animals, kept and petted by the paid agents of capitalism, to wit, the governments of the world, to prevent the capitalists of one country from being robbed and fleeced by those of all other countries; and the navies of the world are simply huge constabularies for the purpose of collecting foreign debts.

So long as Labor is to be robbed it is immaterial to the proletarian class who has the peaches and cream that is garnered by their toil; and could the comrades of this country be as successful in their propaganda among the military forces, as have they been in Belgium, France and Germany—where it is said, a large percentage of the armies are thoroughly inoculated with Socialism—I am not so certain, but what it might strengthen our cause in this country, and at the same time be the means of relieving much destitution and misery, could at least

FACIS VS. BRAUDSTREETS

Common Sense From a Winnipeg, Canada, Businessman to Businessmen Showing Necessity of Socialism.

There have been for many years past two great factors in the moulding of popular or current thought. To these we refer by the names of "the pulpit and the press." To such extent as they have created, or even upheld, current thought, they are responsible for the conditions of life which exist around us. Men are so constructed that it always remains true that we uphold the things to which we take no exception. If men could only learn the deep, strong force which lies in thought, I am sure there would not be that apparent reticence upon the part of business men to speak out concerning the things that vitally interest them. It is noticeable fact that those whom we refer to as "business men" are very slow indeed to speak out upon public questions. This is not much to be wondered at, seeing that each merchant lives in a kind of mental Siberia, where, even in this professedly "free" country with professedly "free" institutions, it may mean commercial suicide to speak the things that are in our minds. But there is one thing sure, and that is that our silence (as "business men") has allowed others to speak without contradiction upon subjects concerning which their remarks have always betrayed a lamentable ignorance of the facts in the case. Thus the coils of a destroying monster have been slowly but surely wrapped around us, until we at last forced to cry out by sheer force of our situation. The writer remembers, when a schoolboy, writing (as a headline at writing practice) "competition is the life of trade." Had he written "competition is the soul of commerce" and "commerce is the death of trade," I think a goodly number would consent to it that it would have been much nearer the truth than the headline in our copybooks.

We learn the truth or falsehood of any statement by experience alone; and I am satisfied that "business men," in any line will be found to admit that the old-fashioned headlines is a glaring lie. This is what we will admit in secret; but are somewhat shy about proclaiming upon the house-top.

Though the gigantic trusts and monopolies which have been formed by previously warring business men are the best evidence to the rest of the public that we do not believe in the truth of the maxim so much as we did, the "war of competition" between the proprietors of cotton mills was what brought about the combination known as the Dominion Cotton Mills Co.

The war between manufacturers of pool cotton was what

caused several of the larger concerns to recently amalgamate their forces. When we look the situation square in the face, we know that from the perishable nature of all classes of goods we are forced to sell—at a profit if we can; but if not, then at loss. Any man in modern commerce knows perfectly well that no man in business is responsible for the competition and cutting of prices which exists. If he does not know it, then he should learn it at once; for it is a naked truth. Of course none will plead guilty to the charge of cutting. It is always "the other fellow." This is nonsense pure and simple; it is all of us. Any one denying it does not know (or else does not consider) all the facts. Whether a man is a millionaire or otherwise, it matters not. The buying public are out for "bargains," and the house or firm which convinces the public that it is the firm or house which will give them the best and most for their money is the house that sells—whether at a profit or at a loss. We are all in it; if not, we will soon be out of it—perhaps sooner for not being "in it" than "out of it." Any business man knows these things stated in general—are facts. Under such circumstances I ask: What can be the only results?

I have an article before me entitled "Success in Commerce," in which the writer records that, based upon "actual experience" in the city of Boston, not more than three in one hundred achieved independence. An experience of forty years had proven that only five in one hundred remained. The others had either failed or died destitute of property. That ninety per cent of all the estates settled in the Probate Court were insolvent. That "not more than one per cent of the best class of merchants in Philadelphia and New York retired with a competence." In Cincinnati a journalist prepared a list of leading business men, and, after the lapse of twenty years, it gave an unbroken list of failures."

This article tells us in only too plain language what the "results" are; and the Toronto "Globe" is responsible for the article in its edition of May 27, 1896.

Now, what we need to get at, if these things are true, is a solution of the question: Are men and merchants responsible for their own bankruptcy, or are we working under laws and conditions wherein the inevitable results (to at least a large proportion in the present and the small minority in the near future) will be bankruptcy? We cannot go into details in a paper necessarily the length of this one; but when only three to five per cent are successful we are obliged to admit either one or two things:

First.—That the other 95 to 97 per cent of business men are fools; or,

Second.—That they are living under laws made by (either) fools or knaves.

We can take which ever horn of the dilemma we like; but there we are. The dilemma is evident; we can only submit the logical conclusion that either we are "mostly fools" or else our legislation is the work of fools, or—what is more pitiable—knaves. In charity we are obliged to think that our legislators are not knaves; and in equal charity to ourselves we can scarcely credit merchants as being "95 to 97 per cent."

At this point I wish to deal with

Messrs. Bradstreet's report or "study of the causes of commercial failures," published recently. In 1896 there were 2,294 failures in Canada, according to Bradstreet's. The various causes assigned were these: "Incompetence, 203; Inexperience, 91; lack of capital, 1,481; unsafe credit, 31; failure of others, 22; extravagance, 8; neglect, 48; competition, 63; disaster, 1,577; speculation, 17; fraud, 80."

This is an interesting list, and it is

now an annual occurrence. We see that this very interesting firm of Bradstreets think of their clients. Remember, men, you are all right until you fall; then they size you up just as you have done others. But if Messrs. Bradstreets had told the truth—and they could not tell it unless they knew it—they would have summed up the whole list under one heading, and that is "competition," to which hydra-headed monster they only attribute 63 out of the 2,294 failures. Think of all that 2,294 failures means. Most business men are married, with wives and families dependent on their efforts. Nearly all have employees, many of whom likewise are married, and are dependent upon the success of their employer's businesses. Honest bankruptcy, upon the part of the debtor list, means poverty and distress. Is it because they have not worked, and worked faithfully? It is not; for bankruptcy is not confined to the indolent. Any other excuse than the conditions of commerce is rendered as a reason for failure; but if we would only think for a moment that men, women or children cannot very well eat more than one square meal even at a time when they are very hungry, and that more than one suit of clothes at a time is only an inconvenience, we would quickly recognize that Messrs. Bradstreets' "study of the causes of commercial failure" is made from a prejudiced standpoint. It is to their interest to blame the unsuccessful rather than the thing we call "commerce." Were we to have all labor and production thoroughly systematized, which would at once destroy all competition, we fear our estimable friends and well-wishers, the Messrs. Bradstreets, and other mercantile agencies, would have to change their course of studies. I will now briefly speak to business men, and to Messrs. Bradstreets, upon MY "study" upon this same question.

I find our society is divided into two great classes—the governing and the governed. In this country we find that there is one office which assures to the beneficiary \$50,000 per annum and living expenses. There is no bankruptcy in that business. Then we have premiers and ministers, with a vast army of civil service employees, at salaries of \$10,000 downwards per annum. We know this also means freedom from bankruptcy. There is also a "Senate with life endowment." Also a large and ever-increasing superannuated list of persons who are kept at the public expense after having enjoyed much more comfortable salaries than falls to the lot of the great outside majority. Here also there is no bankruptcy. Is it because these people are more capable than others? No. But because the conditions of their livings are different. And just think of it, business men! Where do their livings come from? Is it not from that benevolent institution we call the customs house? It certainly is; and business men are assuming the whole responsibility. We know well that this great taxation is the first call on our business; and we also know that before some of the goods are exchanged for cash they do not realize sufficient to pay the duties. Outside of the legislative fraternity we have manufacturers and farmers and their employees, their retail men and their employees. We have wholesale men and their employers; then outside of all these we have banks, bankers and their employees. From one end of the list to the other, without almost any exception, these are nominally, if not professionally, "Christian." The leading men in politics, in banking, in commerce, are nearly all active "church" men. Some of them are Y. M. C. A. workers. Some are elders and deacons, Bible-class teachers and leaders in prayer meetings—all professing allegiance to the teachings of Jesus Christ. He said: "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples if ye have love one to another."

"Mr. Samuel Gompers, President, A. F. of L."

"Dear Sir—On Sunday, March 21, J. Mahlon Barnes, of Philadelphia, lectures at Labor Bureau Hall, 609 C street, N. W., on the subject of "Old and New Trade Unionism." You are invited to present and join in the after discussion. With your unique and faultless knowledge of history, both ancient and modern, you will no doubt be able to intelligently discuss the lecture, thereby giving pleasure and gratification to the audience who will be present. A large-hearted, generous man like you, who has devoted all his life, since a tender age, to the cause of labor, would, so we think, be pleased to make use of this opportunity to appear at the lecture with some practical utterances on the question to be discussed."

"We, of course, understand that your forte is "practicability," and can judge from your appearance that you have made a personal success of that forte, so that in again requesting you to be present, we further recognize your great ability for discussing in an intelligent manner any subject from a "practical" standpoint. Yours, etc., ARTHUR KEEP, Organizer, Section Washington, S.L.P. Mr. Gompers did not turn up."

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There was a large audience present, who applauded Comrade Barnes every point.

He scored the old importation from England, the "pure and simple" scheme, and its leading advocates, such as Gompers & Co. The papers both contained pretty good accounts of the meetings, and gave a fair report of what Barnes said. The fakirs of the A. F. of L., who moved their headquarters to this town, are being hard pushed at present. Only last week, at their own headquarters in their own building, they were told, while a meeting was in progress, that they were a lot of bungo-steering fakirs. They have also been foiled in an attempt to wreck a union here which is opposed to them, and take it all in all, the following letter, which explains itself, has but added to their woes:

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The working people are ripe for Socialism, and we are determined to carry it to them by having open air meetings every Sunday afternoon.

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The Committee on Charter and Awards begs to acknowledge receipt of a charter design signed "Carlo St. Elmo."

Owing to April 18 being Easter Sunday, the meeting has been postponed to the following Sunday, the 25th, at 2 p.m., N. Y. Labor Lyceum.

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

Neighbors. We have around us on every hand the things needed for our enjoyment. Labor is the only thing we need to continue an abundant supply for all. This supply, or the products of labor—food, clothing, shelter, etc.—is the only real wealth, as labor is the only true capital invested. The whole people, who must produce and exchange, must control the production and the means or methods of exchange. We must cease to be dependent upon any part of the whole for a means of exchange. Money is a fraud—a delusion and a snare. It is an invention for the purpose of avoiding labor upon the part of its possessors, and forcing it upon those who lack it. Let us at once correct the mistakes of the past by recognizing the necessity for co-operative labor upon the part of all—national co-operation. In it there can be no "bankruptcy," because there are no banks to break. Neither will there be any assignees' or mercantile agencies awaiting like vultures for carnage. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people," saith the Scriptures. Sin is transgression of divine or national law. Both these read: "Thou shalt care for thy neighbor as thou carest for thyself." Anything else means poverty to some; and one is as likely to be the victim as another. Let us then move our Christianity. "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples if ye have love one of another."—Winnipeg, Canada, "People's Voice."

LETTER BOX.

Offhand Answers to Inquirers.

M. H. F., N. Y.—No, to both questions.

"/Sancta Simplicitas," Meadows, Fla.—First—the Marxian prediction which you quote: "Before the Nineteenth Century ends, the masses will be compelled to fight for collectivism or starve" will be substantially verified.

Second—it is not necessary that each of one half the voters plus one should be actually firmly convinced and trained Socialists. The great events of the world were all accomplished by minorities acting timely, and thoroughly posted and determined. Historic seasons are like climatic seasons. Capitalism is creating the season that will drive the masses in rebellion against it. The S. L. P. will be the nucleus around which they will gather, having been the steady beacon that all along shone in the midst of the storm. Fear not. We, this adult generation of Socialists, will bequeath to the generation below us, and through them to the posterity of mankind a better world to live in than our fathers left to us. Well may we feel happy and proud of the task and the mission history has thrown upon us.

Clemens Bernhardt, St. Louis, Mo.—Your order will be attended to by the Labor News Co., to whom it is passed over.

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SOLIDARITY OF CAPITAL.

The Language of the Bourgeois Press on the Trans-Missouri Decision.

I have often thought what a good thing it would be for the hosts of workingmen to be permeated with the same unanimity of feeling, when their interests are attacked, that pervades the capitalist class when their interests, or the interests of any of their number, are in danger. This was impressed upon my mind by the opinions of the different capitalist newspapers on the Supreme Court decision in the Trans-Missouri Freight Association case. Even those ostensibly in favor of the decision—more on account of attempts at being consistent with their past utterances than out of a love of justice—find something to chuckle at in it, ultimately proving a gain for capitalists and their ilk.

The New York "Journal of Commerce" states that, until the Supreme Court decides on a similar case, namely, the Joint Traffic Association, which has been upheld by the Federal Courts,

"We shall hesitate to accept the opinion delivered by Judge Peckham as putting an end to all possibility of a contract agreement between railroads to maintain rates. Such a conclusion we should regard as a disaster of the first magnitude, because, as experience has shown, in default of agreement among the railroads themselves, the Interstate commerce law has but little influence in maintaining the equality of freight charges. It demands both steadiness of rates and active competition, things which necessarily kill each other. Now, if the Supreme Court is to range itself on the side of active competition, in the sense that EVERY SHIPPER WILL BE LEFT FREE TO EXTORT FROM THE RAILROADS AS LOW A RATE AS HE CAN, there is plainly nothing save a radical revision of the law between the transportation business and chaos. The prohibition of pooling or the maintaining of rates is adverse to the public interests, provided that the rates maintained are not unreasonable; and that they are uniform is far more important than that they should be reasonable."

There is truly something very beautiful in that sentence: "Every shipper will be left free to EXTORT FROM THE RAILROADS AS LOW A RATE AS HE CAN." How the railroad men must have smiled when they read that!

The New York "Evening Post," of rifle-dict fame, gets down in its corner and emits the following shriek:

"A glance at the anti-trust act of 1890 in the light of this opinion is enough to send a cold shudder down the back of any owner of property. Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal, and every such contract is made punishable by a \$5,000 fine or imprisonment for a year, or both."

And then it concludes with these sad remarks:

"It is now held that the most ordinary agreements of commerce may be punished as crimes, by Congress, without proof that they produce any evil effect whatever."

This is a shocking state of affairs, indeed, and one can imagine the pious editor of the "Post" being broken down with grief, and tearfully bewailing the terrible disaster that has overtaken this nation. When Capital is asked to conform to a law on the statute books and no opportunity is offered to give Labor the "rifle diet" prescribed to it by this same philanthropic individual. It is truly awful! Will not some

one take pity on him?

The New York "World," which poses so often as the champion of workingmen and has thereby obtained a large circulation, after taking to itself a great deal of credit for the decision, states that no decision could do more to check "the dangerous tendency toward the aggressive socialism which was revealed in the last election." And then proceeds to pour more balm into the wound, which it thinks Capitalism has received, by the following:

"As the Supreme Court is the strongest bulwark of property and rights as well as of personal rights, the combinations of capital that are disturbed by this decision should welcome it as distinctly for their ultimate good. By limiting their encroachments it will LIMIT THE REACTION against their encroachments. By reducing their oppression and injustice it will reduce the DANGER OF VIOLENT REMEDIES, worse than the disease."

The Brooklyn "Eagle," the proud upholder of all the riotous and murderous

PARTY NEWS.

Activity of Militant Socialists East, West, North and South.

National Executive Committee.

At the session of April 13th all members were present, with Comrade Machtet in the chair. The financial report for the week ending April 10, shows receipts, \$70.26; expenditures, \$219.30; deficit, \$149.10. Labor News Co.: Receipts, \$148.68; expenditures, \$45.55; balance, \$103.13.

Relative to the general vote upon the Jewish press, it is resolved to open to party members a limited space for the discussion of the matter, and that the time for the close of the vote be extended to June 5th.

A communication from Jewish Section, Boston, is ordered printed in THE PEOPLE, with a reply of the Executive Committee. Charter is granted to a new Section in Mount Vernon, N. Y., composed of Italian, and to be designated as Section No. 2.

Comrade L. A. Malkiel is elected Recording Secretary in place of Comrade Copp, resigned.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Sec.

At the session held April 6th, John H. Moore presided. Absent: Machtet, Copp and Sehert; all excused. The financial report for the week ending April 3d shows receipts to the amount of \$11.85; expenditures, \$171.61.

The Labor News Company reports receipts \$154.29; expenditures \$38.47, balance \$115.87.

The Secretary is instructed to have prepared a statement setting forth the position of the S. L. P. toward the trade unions.

Comrades Charles B. Copp sent in his resignation on account of ill health, and the Secretary is ordered to issue a call for nominations to fill the vacancy.

A charter is granted to a new Section located at Rockville, Conn.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Sec. pro tem.

Call For Nomination to N. E. C.

To the Sections of Greater New York.—The Sections located within the territory of the Greater New York are hereby called upon to make nominations for one member of the National Executive Committee in place of Comrade Charles B. Copp, who has resigned on account of ill health.

The organizers of the aforesaid Sections are requested to submit this matter at the next session of their respective bodies, and transmit the nominations then made to the undersigned not later than Saturday, May 1st, on which day the nominations close.

By order of the National Executive Committee.

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Call for a General Vote.

184 William Street,

New York, March 30, 1897.

To the Sections of the S. L. P.

Comrades—The National Executive Committee beg to submit the following proposition to the referendum vote of the Sections throughout the country.

We are of opinion that the party press in all languages should be under direct party control, in order that a systematic agitation may be carried on in every possible direction. Such control is especially important now that the party's political activity makes the press a most important and indispensable weapon, which should not be exposed to the risk of being alienated from the party or of falling into the hands of those who may oppose our platform or tactics.

The "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung," published in New York city, are agencies of great importance in conducting our agitation among the ranks of Jewish-speaking workingmen. There is a wide-spread demand among the Jewish Comrades that these organs should belong to the party, and the National Executive Committee has received a proposition from the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, which conducts the publication of said organs, that the party should assume the control thereof.

The last National Convention of the S. L. P. owing to dissensions existing among Jewish Comrades in connection with these organs, passed a resolution forbidding any Section to have any connection with the Jewish press. This action was taken in the belief that if the Jewish Comrades were left severely alone they would soon settle their differences among themselves.

Experience has shown, however, that notwithstanding the action of the convention, these dissensions still exist, and are a serious impediment to our agitation among the Jewish masses.

We believe that if the direct control and supervision of the Jewish press is vested in the party, acting through its National Executive Committee, all the pretences for disturbances would be entirely removed.

For these reasons it is of great advantage to the party, and especially to Section New York and its agitation, that the party assume control of our Jewish press, the direct ownership, however, to be continued for legal reasons on the incorporated body.

We therefore submit to a referendum vote the following proposition:

The property and management of the "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung" shall be vested in the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, under the direct control of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor party. The books of said publishing association shall be examined, once every three months, by an expert accountant, to be appointed by said committee.

The "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung" shall be made the Jewish official organ of the S. L. P.

The editors shall be elected jointly by the National Executive Committee and the Publishing Association; or, in case they cannot agree, by a general vote of the members of the party, the same as the editors of "The People" and "Vorwärts." Any editor who may prove incompetent or violate the platform or constitution of the party shall be forthwith suspended by the National Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee shall act as a Board of Grievances, and hear and determine complaints respecting the business or editorial management of said organs.

The result of the vote of the Sections should be sent to HENRY KUHN, Secretary, 184 William Street, New York City, not later than May 20, 1897.

By order of the National Executive Committee, HENRY KUHN, Sec.

Activity of Militant Socialists East, West, North and South.

National Executive Committee.

At the session of April 13th all members were present, with Comrade Machtet in the chair. The financial report for the week ending April 10, shows receipts, \$70.26; expenditures, \$219.30; deficit, \$149.10. Labor News Co.: Receipts, \$148.68; expenditures, \$45.55; balance, \$103.13.

Relative to the general vote upon the Jewish press, it is resolved to open to party members a limited space for the discussion of the matter, and that the time for the close of the vote be extended to June 5th.

A communication from Jewish Section, Boston, is ordered printed in THE PEOPLE, with a reply of the Executive Committee. Charter is granted to a new Section in Mount Vernon, N. Y., composed of Italian, and to be designated as Section No. 2.

Comrade L. A. Malkiel is elected Recording Secretary in place of Comrade Copp, resigned.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Sec.

At the session held April 6th, John H. Moore presided. Absent: Machtet, Copp and Sehert; all excused. The financial report for the week ending April 3d shows receipts to the amount of \$11.85; expenditures, \$171.61.

The Labor News Company reports receipts \$154.29; expenditures \$38.47, balance \$115.87.

The Secretary is instructed to have prepared a statement setting forth the position of the S. L. P. toward the trade unions.

Comrades Charles B. Copp sent in his resignation on account of ill health, and the Secretary is ordered to issue a call for nominations to fill the vacancy.

A charter is granted to a new Section located at Rockville, Conn.

L. A. MALKIEL, Rec. Sec. pro tem.

Call For Nomination to N. E. C.

To the Sections of Greater New York.—The Sections located within the territory of the Greater New York are hereby called upon to make nominations for one member of the National Executive Committee in place of Comrade Charles B. Copp, who has resigned on account of ill health.

The organizers of the aforesaid Sections are requested to submit this matter at the next session of their respective bodies, and transmit the nominations then made to the undersigned not later than Saturday, May 1st, on which day the nominations close.

By order of the National Executive Committee.

HENRY KUHN, Secretary.

Call for a General Vote.

184 William Street,

New York, March 30, 1897.

To the Sections of the S. L. P.

Comrades—The National Executive Committee beg to submit the following proposition to the referendum vote of the Sections throughout the country.

We are of opinion that the party press in all languages should be under direct party control, in order that a systematic agitation may be carried on in every possible direction. Such control is especially important now that the party's political activity makes the press a most important and indispensable weapon, which should not be exposed to the risk of being alienated from the party or of falling into the hands of those who may oppose our platform or tactics.

The "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung," published in New York city, are agencies of great importance in conducting our agitation among the ranks of Jewish-speaking workingmen. There is a wide-spread demand among the Jewish Comrades that these organs should belong to the party, and the National Executive Committee has received a proposition from the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, which conducts the publication of said organs, that the party should assume the control thereof.

The last National Convention of the S. L. P. owing to dissensions existing among Jewish Comrades in connection with these organs, passed a resolution forbidding any Section to have any connection with the Jewish press. This action was taken in the belief that if the Jewish Comrades were left severely alone they would soon settle their differences among themselves.

Experience has shown, however, that notwithstanding the action of the convention, these dissensions still exist, and are a serious impediment to our agitation among the Jewish masses.

We believe that if the direct control and supervision of the Jewish press is vested in the party, acting through its National Executive Committee, all the pretences for disturbances would be entirely removed.

For these reasons it is of great advantage to the party, and especially to Section New York and its agitation, that the party assume control of our Jewish press, the direct ownership, however, to be continued for legal reasons on the incorporated body.

We therefore submit to a referendum vote the following proposition:

The property and management of the "Abend-Blatt" and "Arbeiter-Zeitung" shall be vested in the Arbeiter-Zeitung Publishing Association, under the direct control of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor party. The books of said publishing association shall be examined, once every three months, by an expert accountant, to be appointed by said committee.

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